

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 08202 291539Z

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 USIA-15 /030 W

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R 291431Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2156

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

UNCLAS BEIRUT 8202

DEPT FOR CU/NEA

ALGIERS FOR PAO ROSS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, LE

SUBJECT: TQ 76 LEBANON GRANTEES KHALIDI, RUENI AND RISHAH

1. WE HAVE RECEIVED GRANT AUTHORIZATIONS DATED 15 SEPT 76 "FOR INFORMATION AND FILES" FOR WALID KHALIDI (FULBRIGHT-HAYS), GHASSAN TUENI AND OMAR ABU RISHAH (INTERNATIONAL VISITORS).
2. THIS EMBASSY HAS RECORD OF IV GRANT PROCESSING FOR KHALIDI (BEIRUT 7172 AND PREVIOUS), BUT NOR RECORD OR KNOWLEDGE OF REQUESTS FOR TUENI OR RISHAH, ALTHOUGH WE CONSIDER THEM EXCELLENT CHOICES.
3. IN KHALIDI CASE, WE UNDERSTAND HE ALREADY IN US, AND ASSUME NO FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED ON OUR PART.
4. FOR DEPARTMENT: IN CASES OF TUENI AND RISHAH, WE UNDERSTAND BOTH PRESENTLY STILL IN BEIRUT. WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO APPROACH THEM TO OFFER GRANTS BUT BEFORE DOING SO WOULD APPRECIATE FROM DEPT BACKGROUND OF GRANTS; I.E, WHO MADE APPLICATIONS, WHEN, AND ON WHAT BASIS? PLEASE ALSO CONFIRM IF GRANTS STILL VALID (FUNDS FROM TQ 76) AND OUR ASSUMPTION GRANTS WOULD BE VALID UNTIL OCTOBER 31, 1977, END OF FY 77.

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5. TUENI IS MINISTER OF LABOR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS IN OUTGOING

KARAMI GOVERNMENT. HE SHOULD THEREFORE FALL UNDER CATEGORY B (PER YOUR A-4374), WITH PER DIEM RATE MAXIMUM OF \$55 PER DAY (AUTHORIZATION PROVIDES ONLY \$50 PER DAY). EVEN IF TUENI IS NO LONGER MINISTER WHEN HE USES GRANT, HE IS ALSO A LEADING LEBANESE INTELLECTUAL AND POLITICAL FIGURE, AND PUBLISHER OF LEADING BEIRUT NEWSPAPER, AN NAHAR. WE THEREFORE RECOMMEND THAT PER DIEM RATE BE ACCORDINGLY INCREASED.

6. FOR ALGIERS: CAN PAO CHRIS ROSS PROVIDE BACKGROUND ON TUENI AND RISHAH GRANTS?
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NNN

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